

M I N U T E S

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management
Resource Advisory Committee
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000

May 20, 2004
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District Office
2890 Chad Drive
Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Category 1: Joanell Mogstad and Steve Woodard
Category 2: Edward Alverson, Jim Fairchild, James Baker and Bill Richardson
Category 3: Bud Hinman, Jamon Kent, Anna Morrison (via speakerphone for portion of morning session only) and June Olson

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Category 1: None
Category 2: None
Category 3: None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Category 1: Judy Borgstahl, Peter Hackett, and Ross Mickey
Category 2: Penny Lind (Jim Thrailkill and Bob Keefer have resigned their membership)
Category 3: John Lindsey

ALTERNATES ABSENT:

Category 1: David Schmidt
Category 2: Linda Susan Kelly
Category 3: Philip Barnhart and William Dwyer

OTHERS PRESENT (BLM staff unless otherwise noted):

Wayne Elliott (BLM, Designated Federal Official), Gwen Anderson (LCSO,FWC), John Arnold (Lane Co.), Paul Bell (ODF), Tom Berglund (ODF), Mark Buehrig (FS, Siuslaw NF), Diane Bus, Steve Calish, Mark Conley, Emily Rice, Mark D'Aversa, Jeanne Remiro, Matthew Eterner (Lane Co. DYS), Chuck Fairchild, Megan Finnessy (McKenzie WC), Karen Geary, Emily Guiland, Steve Mital (U of O), Ethan Nielson (NWYC), Clint Riley (LCSO, FWC), Patrick Smith (CPRC&D, Corvallis/Eugene), Greg Wagenblast (ODF), Juan Welsh (MWC) and Mark Wilkening

Preceding the meeting, Chairperson Joanell Mogstad discussed with members the likelihood of there not being a quorum, due to the presence of only two members and no alternates in Membership Category 1. There appeared to be unanimous agreement to proceed with the meeting, to receive Project Presentations as scheduled and develop recommendations for project approvals at the next RAC meeting already scheduled for June 10, 2004

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Mogstad called the meeting of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 to order at 9:15 a.m. She welcomed Bill Richardson as a replacement member for Mr. Jim Thrailkill in Category 2. She noted that a quorum was not present and said no decisions would be made during the meeting. She invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott reported that the Charter establishing the RAC had been revised and distributed to members with the agenda of the meeting. He explained that a new section on Ethics Responsibilities of Members had been added, that project recommendations were now to be prioritized, and that Committee funding would now be provided by the BLM.

Mr. Elliott announced that the three-year terms of all RAC members and alternates would expire on December 20, 2004. He said members and alternates could be re-appointed to consecutive three-year terms, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, but that those interested were required to re-apply. He noted that application material had been distributed with the agenda of the meeting and that it needed to be returned to the BLM District Office within thirty days.

Mr. Elliott reported that a consulting firm from California had been engaged to evaluate the operation of RAC's in western Oregon and California. He said the report produced would probably be used to help determine if the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act should be reauthorized, but that he didn't have a lot of information at this time. He said additional information would be available later, but that it appeared members and staff of the Eugene BLM District RAC might be contacted to respond to relevant questions.

2. Status Reports of Title II Project and Funding – Rounds 1, 2 and 3

Mr. Elliott presented status reports regarding Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act Title II projects approved during Rounds 1, 2, and 3, as follows:

1. *Project #ED 02 and #EE 02 – Leopold Creek Culverts (Douglas County)* – Project completed under budget with excellent results. \$5,430 carry-over funds returned to RAC operating fund.

2. *Project #EE 03 – Hult Pond Road Improvement Project, Phase 1* – Projects approved in Rounds 1 and 2 will be completed by August-September 2004, pending contract award. Work remaining involves placement of binder rock, final grading, and two coats of chip seal oil on approximately three miles of road.
3. *Project #EE 04 – Goodpasture Culverts* – Project approved in Round 1 was completed \$143 over budget in August 2003.
4. *Project #EE 05 – Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Crossings* – Cost Estimates for projects involving replacement of three stream crossing culverts approved in Rounds 1 and 2 exceeded available RAC funding and will be completed using non-RAC resources. Engineering and design work for approximately nine additional culverts are currently being completed and construction will begin in summer 2004.
5. *Project #EE 06 – Abandoned Vehicle Removal* – Projects approved in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 were very successful, over 370 vehicles have been removed from public lands including removal of numerous tires and appliances.
6. *Project #EE 07 – Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Enhancement* – Projects approved in Rounds 1 and 2 had added stream structures to a five mile stretch of Big River. Field surveys, project design, and Endangered Species Act clearance for project approved in Round 3 are nearly complete. Construction is scheduled to begin August 2004, adding another 1.5 miles of stream structures.
7. *Project #EE 08 – Scotch Broom inventory* – Project approved in Round 1. Photo rectification, field verification, and final mapping project were completed in December 2003. Prioritization of treatment locations are being identified and planned using the map.
8. *Project #EE 09 – Juvenile Forest Work Team* – Ecosystem restoration projects approved in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 have been successfully completed. Crew numbers were over-estimated in Rounds 2 and 3 and funds returned to RAC operating fund.
9. *Projects #EE 10 and #EN 50 – Forest Work Camp (Lane, Douglas and Linn Counties)* – Projects approved in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 were successfully completed.
10. *Project #EE 11 – Clay and Whittaker Creek Trail and Campground Maintenance* – Project approved in Round 2 completed in cooperation with Northwest Youth Corps in summer 2003.

11. *Project #EE 12 – Shotgun Park Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements* – Project approved in Round 2 completed in September 2003.
12. *Project #EE 13 – Disposal of Illegally Dumped Household Garbage* – Removal and disposing project approved in Round 2 completed very successfully, project is complete but has carry-over funds in the amount of \$15,262. New proposal in Round 4 is from the University of Oregon, Environmental Studies Service Learning Program (SLP) and involves a research and monitoring project to inventory trash sites and assist in their management.
13. *Project #EE 14 – Goodpasture Road Improvement* – Funding for project approved in Round 2 was supplemented with District Jobs-In-The-Woods program resources and involves replacing seven stream crossing culverts, replacement/addition of approximately 30 cross drains, and re-rocking 3.8 miles of road. Construction planned for fall 2004.
14. *Projects #EE 15 and ED 03 – Invasive Plant Species Treatment (Lane, Douglas, and Linn Counties)* – Project approved in Round 2 involved on-the-ground control treatment of invasive species on 300 acres. Project continues in Round 3 as #EE 20.
15. *Project #EE 16 – Willamette Basin Weed Management Partnership* – Northwest Oregon Invasive Management Partnership project approved in Round 2 was initiated in 2003 with various partners in the Southern Willamette Valley. Three Weed Management Areas have been formed, adopted management plans, identified weeds of concern, and are in the process of signing Memorandums of Understanding.
16. *Project #EE 17 – Lane County Fish Passage Improvement* – Project approved in Round 3 is undertaken in cooperation with McKenzie Watershed Council. Design for six fish barrier culverts under Lane County roads has been completed and replacement of three is scheduled for June/July 2004. One replacement has been cancelled after further technical review. Completion of two remaining culverts will be proposed in Round 4.
17. *Project #EE 18 – Northwest Youth Corps* – Project approved in Round 3 will fund campground and facilities maintenance work and trail construction and maintenance to be completed summer 2004.
18. *Project #EE19 – Fish Creek Culverts* – Project approved in Round 3 involved three culverts. Two will be removed and replaced with con-span stream simulation arch culverts and one will be slip-lined to prevent future failure. Contract to be awarded in June 2004 and construction planned for late summer.

19. *Project #EE 20 – Invasive Species Treatments* – Project approved in Round 3 to remove noxious weeds and invasive plants in several BLM District locations. Only 600 acres completed to date due to fire restrictions in 2003. Project to be completed in 2004.
20. *Project #EE 20 – Linn County Timber Road* – Project approved in Round 3 to widen 0.03 miles of existing road and add gravel shoulders. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation is complete and preliminary design work begun. Construction planned for late summer 2004.
21. *Project #EE 01 – Eugene Resource Advisory Committee Operating Expenses* – Expenses for Rounds 1, 2, and 3 have been \$39,935. The new RAC Charter specifies that BLM will fund these expenses from non-Title II appropriated funds.
22. *Project #EE 99 – BLM In-Direct Overhead Expenses* – Project expenses have averaged \$140,200 in each of Rounds 1, 2, and 3.

3. Election of Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Mogstad stated that election of a new Vice Chairperson would be delayed until the next meeting, due to the lack of a quorum. She noted that the person elected would be required to represent Membership Category 2.

Chairperson Mogstad declared a fifteen-minute recess at 10:10 a.m.

Chairperson Mogstad stated that she would be unable to attend the Special RAC Meeting scheduled for June 10. She determined there was agreement that she would contact a Category 1 Member to serve as chairperson in her absence.

4. Round 4, Title II Project Presentations

Mr. Elliott reiterated that no voting would be completed today as there is not a quorum of members and that meeting actions today are strictly informational in nature and that voting on projects would be done on June 10, 2004.

Presentations were made of Title II Projects proposed for funding in Round 4 and members discussed them, as follows:

A. Multi-Year Continuation Projects

1. *Abandoned Vehicle Removal (#EE06)* – Sponsor: Norm Maxwell. Description: Removal of abandoned vehicles, eliminating threats to clean water and other forest values. Vehicles are identi-

fied, disposed of properly, and identified owners contacted by law enforcement authorities to seek recovery of removal costs. Approximately 40 vehicles have been removed annually. Because of a decline in collections to an “unauthorized uses trust fund” established to supplement the project, the cost of continuing the project at its current level cannot be sustained and funding requests for FY05 and FY06 will be raised by \$4,000. Funds Requested: \$20,000.

Mr. Kent asked if it would be possible for efforts of the Juvenile Forest Work Team or Forest Work Camp Work Crews to supplement the project. Project Sponsor Norm Maxwell replied that the technical aspects of removing abandoned cars were accomplished by a single individual with the proper equipment. He said he regularly also removed abandoned household appliances at the same time as cars.

Mr. Hinman asked how successful were efforts to trace vehicle owners for collection of the cost of removal. Mr. Elliott replied that determining ownership was often difficult because of a general unwillingness to accept responsibility. He said it has been reported that some vehicles were placed on BLM land by private landowners, on whose land they were originally illegally abandoned to avoid responsibility for removal costs.

At this point, the telephone connection with Ms. Morrison was disrupted and was unable to be resumed. She was no longer considered present.

2. *Juvenile Forest Work Team (#EE09)* – Sponsor: Lane County Department of Youth Services. Description: BLM and Forest Service generate work projects for the team designed for forest health improvement. Projects include noxious weed abatement, trail maintenance, cleanup of illegal dump sites, wildfire hazard reduction, wildlife habitat restoration, stream restoration, and fish habitat enhancement. Funds Requested: \$103,255.

Lane County representative John Arnold said Rounds 1, 2, and 3 projects had cleared 473 miles of roadside, maintained 568 campsites, refurbished 17 structures, and established 5 permanent trash collection routes. He explained that \$146,000 of the Round 3 allocation had been refunded because carryover funds from Rounds 1 and 2 were available.

Mr. Kent asked if “materials and supplies” budgeted for the Project were always disposable items. Mr. Arnold replied that the majority of what was identified in that category was food.

3. *Lane County Forest Work Camp (#EE10 and #EN50)* – Sponsor: Lane County Sheriff’s Office. Description: Federal land managers identify projects that require full-time work by 8 to 15 crews. Projects include forest health improvement, habitat restoration, riparian release, control of noxious weeds, refuse removal, trail maintenance, road maintenance, and decommissioning, campground maintenance, and wildfire hazard reduction. Funding Requested: \$237,127.

Mr. Arnold said Rounds 1, 2, and 3 had maintained 25 miles of roadway, cleared 2,672 acres of noxious weeds, and maintained and improved 100 structures. He noted that there were no capital expenditures in the budget request for Round 4.

4. *Invasive Species Control (#EE20)* – Sponsor: BLM. Project Description: Contract crews use mechanical or manual methods to remove noxious weeds and invasive plants on BLM District lands. Some sites will be re-treatment areas and others initial treatment areas. Project design will be by BLM staff. Funding Requested: \$130,000

BLM Staff Chuck Fairfield reviewed the benefits of the project and said most efforts would be along roadsides. He explained that special effort would be exerted to deal with a new species of Scotch Broom recently discovered in the District. He said there was coordination with private landowners and that Forest Work Camp crews were often used.

Mr. Kent asked if cooperation with private landowners was successful. Mr. Fairfield described projects carried out in collaboration with timber companies, Lane County, and area watershed councils.

Mr. Woodard asked if there was interest in exploring the use of herbicides in weed eradication. Mr. Fairchild replied that, with the exception of 4 chemicals, BLM is under a court injunction to use nothing but mechanical eradication methods on public lands. He said a study was currently being made of new, more environment-friendly chemical products and that changes might be possible in the future.

Mr. Kent asked why the Round 4 fund request had increased. Mr. Fairchild replied that additional worker hours were needed to address problems in new areas and that additional time also allowed for better project control.

Mr. Richardson asked if re-vegetation was carried out in areas of weed eradication. Mr. Fairchild replied that machinery recently acquired to perform such a task had been declared unacceptable by Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) authorities and that efforts to meet requirements were underway.

5. *Disposal of Illegally Dumped Household Garbage (#EE13)* – Mr. Elliott reported that this project, as originally planned, is complete but that the new proposal from the U of O would get most of the data from this project (#EE13). It could be viewed as a continuation project or a new project proposal. Sponsor: University of Oregon Environmental Studies Service Learning Program. Project Description: Support a program using teams of university students and staff to map and expand a database of illegal trash sites with information from the watersheds of the Middle Fork of the Wil-

lamette and Mohawk rivers. New work would include the entire Eugene District. Forest Work Camp staff will be trained to use Global Positioning Satellite technology to create maps of dump-sites and recording findings prior to their being cleaned. An interactive website to encourage and support citizen monitoring and prevention efforts will be created. Best practices for dumping prevention would be researched and proposals made to stem the problem. Funding Requested: \$14,060.

University of Oregon Environmental Studies Service Learning Program Coordinator Steve Mital described the project and explained the co-funding of the effort by the University. He said the project would allow coordination of cleanup efforts in the District and would focus on prevention. He said the project also included educational programs for schools and community groups.

Mr. Woodard asked if the project would identify sites regularly used for group drug and alcohol abuse. Mr. Mital replied that such "party sites" had been included in similar projects carried out in other locations.

In response to a question from Mr. Kent, Mr. Mital explained that the funding requested for the project, together with University resources contributed, would pay for ten hours a week of work by four undergraduate students, one graduate student, and the supervision of the program coordinator for an academic year.

B. New Project Proposals

1. *Shotgun Creek Off Highway Vehicle Trail System* - Sponsor: BLM. Project Description: A physical inventory will be completed and a public scoping process and Environmental Assessment planning process for making modifications to the existing 24-mile trail system will be developed. Efforts will focus on reducing watershed impacts and loss of vegetation. Implementation actions will be refined after the planning process is completed. Funds Requested: \$77,000.

BLM Staff Diana Bus made a slide presentation of the trail system and processes to be used in the modifications. She said resources for inventory and planning processes were very limited. She said the project would be completed in fall 2004 and implementation begun in 2005.

Mr. Woodard said he was surprised the Oregon Department of Forestry was not participating as a cooperating sponsor of the project.

Mr. Alverson asked why the project had been developed before NEPA requirements were met. Ms. Bus replied that the project request was to provide funds for planning processes.

Ms. Mogstad suggested that off-road vehicle trail planning utilize the services of the limited number of experts in the field who were available locally.

Mr. Woodard said he believed the project would be more appealing if implementation was involved. Mr. Kent said he agreed because it could be opposed for including only planning. Ms. Bus replied that the BLM intended to seek multi-year funding for the project that would include a request for implementation resources.

Ms. Mogstad said it would be helpful to identify the final outcomes proposed for the project, even in the application for planning resources.

Mr. Fairchild asked if any of the trail system was located on privately owned land. Ms. Bus referred to a document entitled "Shotgun OHV Trail System" that contained a map showing the locations the system entered private lands and noted that travel was allowed in those areas only on graveled and paved roads.

2. *Taylor Boat Landing Recreation Site* – Sponsor: BLM. Project Description: Visitor safety/satisfaction and site protection improvements will be added – concrete boat launch panels in place of existing gravel launch pad; site entry modifications for additional safety; ADA accessible prefabricated vault toilet; picnic tables and grills; access routes connecting key site features; site signage for identification, information, and interpretation; defined activity areas; and re-vegetation of denuded areas. Funds Requested: \$84,000.

Ms. Bus made a slide presentation of the current conditions at the site. She said NEPA requirements for the project had been completed. She distributed copies of maps showing the vicinity and proposed improvements to the site.

3. *Siuslaw Recreation Facilities Development* – Sponsor: BLM. Project Description: Campground facilities at the Lake Creek Falls Watchable Wildlife Site fish ladder will be upgraded. Visitor information and interpretation through signs, brochures, maps, and displays will be replaced and expanded. An information and interpretation kiosk and visitor guides will be created for the Hult Pond area. Campground facilities at Whittaker Creek, Clay Creek, and Sharp's Creek will be modified, replaced, and retrofitted to meet ADA accessibility standards. Funds Requested: \$118,000.

BLM Recreation Planner Mark Conley expressed appreciation for previous RAC recommendations supporting improvements in Siuslaw Resource Area recreation sites. He described details and benefits of the proposed development project.

Mr. Kent asked if normally budgeted BLM resources were used for efforts like the proposed project. Mr. Conley replied that they were, but that funds for completion of what was proposed were not available.

In response to a request from Mr. Kent, Mr. Conley said he would seek to identify possible reductions in the scope of the proposed project. He said what was currently included had been identified as the most pressing projects in the Resource Area, but that they had not been prioritized in the proposal.

Mr. Alverson asked if NEPA studies had been completed for the proposed project. Mr. Conley replied that the required impacts for each element had been identified, but that an overall plan for the Hult Pond area was not yet complete.

4. *Northwest Youth Corps Employment and Eugene Recreation Maintenance* – Sponsor: Northwest Youth Corps. Description: Northwest Youth Corps conservation crews will work on maintenance and construction projects in the District. Project areas include annual cleanup and facilities maintenance of the Row River Trail, facilities and trail maintenance at Shotgun Creek Park and Off-Highway Vehicle Trail System, Clean-up and rehabilitation of Hult pond Dispersed Recreation Site and lake Creek Falls Watchable Wildlife Site, annual maintenance of Whittaker and Clay Creek Recreation sites, and additional work projects identified or changed to meet District recreation maintenance priorities. Funds Requested: \$68,126.

Northwest Youth Corps Project Manager Ethan Nelson made a presentation on the mission, benefits, and program of his organization. He listed accomplishments and showed pictures of successfully completed projects. He reviewed funding sources for the Corps. He explained that a majority of Title II funding received through RACs supported the summer residential or school programs.

Chairperson Mogstad declared a thirty-minute lunch recess at 12:15 p.m.

5. *Row-Mosby Fire Hazard Reduction* – Sponsor: Eastern Lane Unit, Cascade District, Oregon Department of Forestry. Description: The project is an effort to reduce fire hazards around homes within ½ mile of BLM lands. A planning phase will involve contacting community leaders, forming planning teams and beginning to interact with community residents about the need to prepare for home fire safety. An implementation phase will include community meetings, door-to-door surveys, free home assessments, and eligibility for partial rebate of the cost of fire fuel reduction. Funds Requested: \$22,350.

Oregon Department of Forestry representative Tom Berglund presented the project proposal. He said its primary purpose was to protect the forest from home fires, but that it offered equal safety benefit to homeowners from wildfires. He described the effort in relation to a National Fire Plan-

ning Grant received by his department. He referred to a map that showed the locations of 700 homes within ½ mile of BLM land and said that 512 of the homes had been assessed as in need of fire safety improvements. He described the positive impacts of the program elsewhere in the state.

Mr. Woodard asked if hazard insurance companies participated in the program. Mr. Berglund replied that contacts with company representative with interests in the area should be made.

Mr. Baker said his experience with the program was that a “clear-cut” was not a recommended procedure for creating fire safety zones around a home. Mr. Berglund added that a principle of the program to stress increasing the possibility of surviving a wildfire, but to not create undue anxiety for residents.

Mr. Baker asked what portion of the National Fire Planning Grant was utilized in the area of the Eugene BLM District. Mr. Berglund replied that \$195,000, approximately twenty percent of the grant was used locally.

In response to questions from Mr. Kent, Mr. Berglund stated that it would be possible for the proposed project to receive RAC funding without requiring any commitments for subsequent years. He said the proposed project would fund approximately one-half of the program in the District area. He said discussions with area timber holding companies about supporting the program were planned.

In response to questions from Mr. Alverson, Mr. Baker, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. Woodard, Mr. Berglund explained that the “workforce cost” included in the budget of the proposed project was for contract workers to conduct surveys and assessments and that local residents would be given the first opportunity for employment. He said a small portion of project resources would be used to improve water access sites.

Mr. Kent suggested that “partnering” with schools in the area of the project could be beneficial.

Mr. Fairchild said he was not convinced that the project would benefit federal land and suggested that a “stronger case” be about it.

6. *Coburg/Calapoolia Fire Hazard Reduction* - Sponsor: Eastern Lane Unit, Cascade District, Oregon Department of Forestry. Description: Save as above. Funds Requested: \$159,500.
7. *McKenzie Culverts – Fish Passage Improvement* – Sponsor: McKenzie Watershed Council. Description: Fish passage barriers at two locations will be removed and provided listed fish access to five miles historically occupied habitat on BLM lands. The project will be carried out through cooperation between Lane County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, private industrial tim-

ber companies, Oregon Department of Forestry, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and other watershed councils. Funds Requested: \$135,500.

McKenzie Watershed Council Projects Manager Juan Welsh described the purpose and work of watershed councils. He said the proposed project was not on BLM land, but adjacent to it and would enable fish passage to three miles of habitat on Parsons Creek and two miles of habitat on Tom Creek. He showed pictures of the locations of the proposed project.

8. *Mohawk River/McGowen Creek Confluence Area Stream Enhancement* – Sponsor: McKenzie Watershed Council. Description: In partnership with the Mohawk Watershed Group and private residential and agricultural landowners, watershed restoration projects will be undertaken on a minimum of six properties near the confluence. The quality and quantity of Chinook salmon rearing habitat will be improved. Riparian restoration will eliminate degradation of stream banks and promote lower water temperatures. Wood debris will be added in-stream. Post-project implementation monitoring and maintenance will take place. Funds Requested: \$74,250.

Mr. Welsh showed pictures of the area of the project and described proposed work to be done. He said a watershed council was best suited to develop the cooperation necessary for the proposed project.

Mr. Alverson said he believed the project would be most successful if a mechanism to prevent landowners from removing stream infrastructure was included. Mr. Welsh replied that such restrictions were established with the collaboration of those who funded the project and that they were normally limited to no more than five years.

Chairperson Mogstad declared a ten-minute recess at 1:55 p.m.

9. *Coburg Hills Habitat Enhancement* – Sponsor: BLM. Description: Approximately 420 acres of 54-64 year old timber will be treated to develop additional bald eagle habitat and produce forest products on BLM land. Suitable nest trees, stands of large conifers, structural diversity will be created. Snags and down logs will enhance potential nesting sites and also provide habitat for a variety of other wildlife species. Roads proposed for closure or decommissioning will be analyzed in the environmental assessment. Funds Requested: \$122,000.

BLM Upper Willamette Resource Area Supervisor Trish Wilson explained the objectives and described procedures to be followed in the two-year project. She said a thinned stand of timber with increased diversity would result from the harvest of approximately five million board feet of lumber. She said additional bald eagle nesting and wintering habitat in the area would be achieved over a number of years.

In response to a question from Mr. Kent, Ms. Wilson said receiving less funding than requested would result in a reduction of resources, but that the project would likely continue to be undertaken.

In response to a question from Mr. Alverson, Ms. Wilson explained that revenue derived from the timber sale would be “returned to the treasury” and that the amount received would be determined by the market at the time it was cut. Mr. Baker added that income from timber sales was currently at a very high level.

In response to a question from Mr. Richardson, Ms. Wilson said supporting the project with ‘stewardship’ funds had been considered, but that most of its resources were dedicated to projects in Southern Oregon on property that was not able to produce timber revenue.

10. *Knotweed Control Project* – Sponsor: Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development, Corvallis, Or. Description: Funding is requested for support of one of a multi-year effort to control the knotweed complex of weeds, primarily through herbicide applications in watersheds containing BLM land. Funds will be used to gain landowner permission and conduct treatment on infested patches. Other weeds may also be treated. Funds Requested: \$73,600. Northwest Invasive Weed Management Partnership Coordinator Patrick Smith described the proposed project as “on-the-ground” weed management. He said its goals were technical information sharing and regional/local weed management. He said more than 50 organizations were involved in the Partnership. He showed pictures of Knotweed infestation and exhibited an example. He described newly developed herbicides that were singularly effective on Knotweed. He said that although scientific studies showed it was safe, it would be important that the project create public understanding of it.
11. *Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan: In-Stream Restoration* – Sponsor: BLM. Description: Three barrier culverts along BLM road in Upper Wildcat Creek area will be removed. Twenty-two in-stream log structures would be created in upper Wild Cat Creek. Six in-stream log structures would be created in Salerratus Creek. Seventeen in-stream log structures would be created in the north tributary of Leopold Creek. The project will increase the production of commercially and culturally important fish and other aquatic species and improve the stability of the aquatic system. Funds Requested: \$67,500.
12. *Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan: Barrier Culvert Removal* – Sponsor: BLM. Description: one barrier culvert will be removed on Haight Creek. Two barrier culverts will be removed on Buck Creek. Three barrier culverts will be removed on Shaw Creek. The project will increase the production of commercially and culturally important fish and other aquatic species and improve the stability of the aquatic system. Funds Requested: \$14,150.

BLM Staff Leo Poole distributed vicinity maps identifying the vicinity of the two Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan projects. He described the work to be undertaken at each location.

13. *Lake Creek Road Improvement, Phase I: Fish Passage and Road Realignment/Survey and Design* – Sponsor: BLM. Description: Two stream culverts will be removed on Lake Creek Road and replaced with new low profile culverts designed to pass both aquatic species and the 100-year flood event. A culvert on Road No. 15-7-26.2 will be removed and the stream channel restored by relocating the road approximately 300 feet to avoid the crossing. Phase I involves survey and design work for the project. The project will increase the production of commercially and culturally important aquatic species and improve the stability of the aquatic system. The project will also improve the road infrastructure. Funds Requested: \$79,000.
14. *Lake Creek Road Improvement, Phase II: Fish Passage and Road Realignment, Construction Phase*– Sponsor: BLM. Description: Two stream culverts will be removed on Lake Creek Road and replaced with new low profile culverts designed to pass both aquatic species and the 100-year flood event. A culvert on Road No. 15-7-26.2 will be removed and the stream channel restored by relocating the road approximately 300 feet to avoid the crossing. Phase II involves construction of the project. The project will increase the production of commercially and culturally important aquatic species and improve the stability of the aquatic system. The project will also improve the road infrastructure. Funds Requested: \$118,500.
15. *Lake Creek Road Improvement, Phase III: Paving/Survey and Design* – Sponsor: BLM. Description: Paving Lake Creek Road would be designed by contract with an engineering firm. The project will decrease sediment runoff into Lake Creek, increasing the production of commercially and culturally important aquatic species and improving the stability of the aquatic system. The project will also improve the road structure by providing a well-drained, hardened surface. Funds Requested: \$82,000.

BLM Staff Phil Redlinger distributed copies of material entitled “Lake Creek Road Project Suite.” He noted that it provided proposed funding sources and project map locations for the three phases of the Lake Creek Road Improvement project. He explained the seasonal conflicts of use and heavy traffic on the section of road proposed for improvement. He said updating of culverts could not be classified as maintenance and could not be funded from timber sales revenue. He said paving the section would generate less stream sediment and allow increased recreational, residential, and emergency vehicle travel on it. He said phase IV of the project would be paid entirely by timber sales revenue.

In response to a question from Mr. Kent, Mr. Redlinger explained that it was less expensive to complete the project using RAC funds than to immediately use sales revenue for maintenance work and have to reconstruct it to replace culverts later.

Mr. Woodard suggested that “vertical curves” in the proposed roadway caused by redesigned culverts could be acceptable to users, saving considerable design and construction cost.

5. Closing

Mr. Elliott determined there was agreement to schedule the June 10 meeting for 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He said BLM staff would prepare required public notices of the meeting and distribute meeting agenda and background material to members. He said resource specialists and other project sponsors would be invited to be present in the first part of the meeting to answer limited questions of members.

Ms. Mogstad said she would appoint a member from Category 1 to preside at the meeting and that members absent today should familiarize themselves with the projects and use ‘whatever means necessary’ to be prepared to vote on projects at the June 10 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)